

LIVING HERE | Homes Overlooking Vineyards

Views of Vines

WHO Michelle Cheatham, 46, interior designer and owner of a catering company
WHAT 2-bedroom house
WHERE St. Helena, Calif.

It took me over two years to find this house because I was absolutely set on having a place overlooking a vineyard. A vineyard to me is what the ocean must be to other people. It's a view that makes me feel tranquil and centered. From both inside the house and the patio at the back, I look out on acres of Harlan vineyards. My property is only one acre, but it feels like it goes on forever.

The palette of the vines changes with the seasons, and this has had a real influence on my interior design. I find myself turning to mustards and greens and rich orangey-reds.

I live in San Francisco and my friends have often asked me: "Why do you spend so much time out there. The men are in the city!" And I always say, "I'll import them!" The way I see it, I'm exactly where I want to be and anyone who wants to spend time with me will have to follow. I love to entertain. I have an outdoor area with a rock fireplace and a verandah overlooking the vineyard. Friends come out from the city and we'll sit out there and pass the hours as bunnies and coyotes pass by — even in the daylight. There are so many birds, too. It's hard to describe the serenity.

In February, the view becomes electric yellow. It's so sunny and bright. The vines are my meditation. The fog gets trapped, the rain-mist hovers. It's my nirvana. As told to Bethany Lyttle



HEIDI SCHUMANN FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES



WHERE Kelowna, B.C.
WHAT 4-bedroom house
HOW MUCH \$5.3 million

This 7,400-square-foot house overlooks Okanagan Lake and two wineries with vineyards. The house has an outdoor kitchen, a pool and terraced sun decks. Inside there are antique European floors and 17-foot ceilings. There is a media center, a wine cellar and bar and four bathrooms. The house is being offered fully furnished, including a collection of Canadian art, for 6.9 million Canadian dollars. Agent: Christa Frosch, Sotheby's International Realty Canada, (604) 306-7742; www.sothebysrealty.ca.



WHERE Jackson, Calif.
WHAT 3-bedroom house
HOW MUCH \$640,000

Situated on about 12 acres of vineyards, this house was built in the 1970s and has vaulted redwood ceilings and large windows. There is a large deck off the living room, and one of the bedrooms has a kitchenette, a sitting area and a private bathroom. There are two other bathrooms. Broker: Steve Rount, Steve Rount Real Estate, (209) 296-4130; www.steverouttrealtor.com.

Information on properties was obtained from the listing companies.



WHERE Peconic, N.Y.
WHAT 4-bedroom house
HOW MUCH \$879,000

Built in 2001, this 3,100-square-foot house is on nearly an acre and borders 75 acres of vineyards. The cedar clapboard farmhouse has wide-plank floors and a master suite with a balcony and vineyard views. There is a private sandy beach 150 yards away and a pond suitable for both summer and winter recreation. There are three and a half bathrooms, including a guest suite over the garage. Agents: Robert Mauer and Penelope Moore, the Corcoran Group, (631) 734-5500; www.corcoran.com.



WHERE Dundee, Ore.
WHAT 4-bedroom house
HOW MUCH \$945,000

Built in 2000, this 3,606-square-foot Craftsman-style house backs onto rolling vineyards. Floor-to-ceiling windows provide views from almost every room. Situated on 1.08 acres, the house has a decorative waterfall, a slab stone patio, concrete decking and a covered porch. There is an open kitchen with a breakfast bar and a media room with a wet bar. The master suite has a large glass-block shower. Agent: Jean Ice, Era Freeman and Associates, (503) 665-3144; www.eraglobal.com.



WHERE Spicewood, Tex.
WHAT 4-bedroom house
HOW MUCH \$2.9 million

About 35 miles from Austin, this 6,679-square-foot modern house has walls of windows and a saltwater pool that overlooks Lake Travis and the Stone House Vineyard. On 2.11 acres, the house has limestone walls, motorized shading on all windows and heated bathroom floors. The kitchen has natural stone countertops and a breakfast bar. There are four and a half bathrooms. Broker associate: Eric Moreland, Moreland Properties, (512) 480-0848, ext. 192; www.ericmoreland.com.



WHERE Crozet, Va.
WHAT 4-bedroom house
HOW MUCH \$875,000

This federal-style house is on 2.1 acres, one of which has cabernet vines. It was built around 1796 and has original details like fireplace mantels, a grand staircase and high ceilings. The kitchen has been updated with cherry-wood cabinets and commercial-grade appliances. The house has views of the Blue Ridge Mountains from its large back deck and arbor. There are three bathrooms. Agent: Joan Jay, Roy Wheeler Realty Company, (434) 295-1806; www.roywheeler.com.

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